

From: walter bogaardt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 8:11pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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As a software engineer and user of various computer operating systems, Unix, Windows, and Linux. I'd like to make my comments known about the Proposed final Judgment in United States v. Microsoft.

The following is my observations and complaints about the DOJ's proposed settlement. If the proposed settlement is left as is consumers and developers will be held within the continual push of Microsoft propaganda and ideals. Some of these can be detrimental to our scientific and academic communities.

Even one of Microsoft execs have stated that Linux could stifle innovation. If innovation is being stifled it is by Microsoft. The scientific community as well as the United States government research centers have used linux to create "cheaper" alternative clusters of computers using Linux to create processing power as powerful as some super computers. Higher costs are not inovative. Doing more with less is inovating and cost saving.

Microsoft would lead you to believe that innovation was created only by commercial business. Most of the technology we see today was created in schools by the academic community and by computer enthusiasts. The basic fundamental elements of the internet were designed to share information and not to horde the information for sale.

We must not allow our schools education be dicated by one monopolistic entity. In so far as that our children are forced to learn only of Microsoft Windows OS and there by go into the workforce expousing and reenforceing microsoft os in the workplace and continuing the momentum of monopoly.

Microsoft now has established product lifecycle for license availability and assisted support limits on their software. Now older versions of their software may no longer be supported by them. This thereby forces the users to purchase a newer version and because of the higher hardware demands of the software requires a user to buy a new PC when their current pc may work just fine. Software that is for sale should be continually serviced by the selling entity if the software continues to work for the user. This should be the cost of doing software business as a software company. Software and specifically Microsoft software has completely avoid all standards of product liability. If a car were to crash or break down as much as their "inovative" products do where would we all be now?

The proposed final judgment by the DOJ is not sufficient in not only the intrest of the consumer, but those entities that must support computer technology in general. Software developers and IT technicians are constantly having to find solutions to problems that Microsoft technology constantly hides. From Application Programing Interface(API) changes to new network protocols and file formats.

Take for instance Microsoft File formats for their word documents. In order to allow other software to read and successfully print or display the contents of this document the programer must "reverse" engineer the information so that it can make sense in another program. This same policy by microsoft of hiding details from other companie's programers lead to the demis of Netscape. Does this mean the

demise of WordPerfect, StarOffice, and other wordprocessing programs too? It must be stated that the API's that Microsoft uses to interface to its Windows OS and its Middleware (Microsoft Office, Internet Explorer) should be made more available to public developers.

Microsoft is currently operating in a capacity in it has gone beyond the desktop OS environment and is assimilating B2B services with their .NET and Passport services. They continue to attack companies that they percieve as competitive such as Lindows, which is building a system on top of Linux that allows windows applications to install and run seamlessly. They have almost succeded in eliminating Java from the desktop and with .NET will try to eliminate Java from the server space as well.

Microsoft should do business either as an OS vendor, or a break up of its middleware and server groups into separate entities. In this outside developers should be allowed free access to well document public API's in the windows OS so that they can perform their jobs, and provide consumers with alternative innovative products. This in turn reinvigorates the economy by establishing competition within business.

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